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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Associated Country Women of the World

Special Consultative Status granted 1947

The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) is an international NGO representing some 9 million rural women in over 70 countries in Africa, Asia & the Far East, Central & South America and the Caribbean, Europe, North America, South Pacific. ACWW aims to raise the living standard of women and their families through literacy, education and training; through community development projects for income earning and for the promotion of agriculture, health, nutrition and childcare; through the elimination of discrimination and of inequality of opportunity; through promotion of international cooperation and understanding. Project activity worldwide is financed from ACWW resources plus periodic grants from UN, aid and development agencies, and other charitable sources.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

-UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, UN HQ, June 2001: ACWW Urgency Resolution on HIV/AIDS passed at Triennial Conference held June 2001 and transmitted direct to the Special Session.

- UN General Assembly Special Session on Children, UN HQ, May 2002.

-World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, August/September 2002; Statement on Rural Women and Food Security presented by this organisation.

Annual UN Department of Public Information NGO Conferences, New York. 1999-2002:

1999-2002: Other UN General Assembly Special Sessions listed under relevant commissions below I n addition: General Assembly Third Committee sessions on women's issues.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC) AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Forty-third Session, UN HQ, March 1999 and Second PrepCom for UN GA Special Session on Beijing +5. Co-signatory to NGO Statement on Women's Health, Mental Health and Older Women.

First regional preparatory activity for UN GA Special Session on Beijing +5, Bangkok, October 1999.

Forty-fourth Session, UN HQ, Feb/March 2000 and Third PrepCom for UN GA Special Session on Women. Co-signatory to Statement of NGOs in support of UNIFEM. Active participation in women's caucuses/ panels.

UN General Assembly Special Session (Beijing +5), UN HQ, June 2000 - Five Year Review of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: Women 2000 Gender Equality, Development & Peace for the 21st Century. ACWW Millennium Statement presented.

Forty-fifth Session, UN HQ, March 2001 - Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the UN GA Special Session held June 2000.

Forty-sixth Session, UN HQ, March 2002 - Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the UN GA Special Session held June 2000.

1999-2002: Regular meetings of: NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York, Geneva and Vienna. NGO Working Group on Girls, New York and Geneva; ECE Working Group on Women; Workin Group on Environment; Working Group on Health & Human Rights; Working Group on Refugees; Working Group on Traditional Practices; Working Group on Nutrition - all held Geneva.

Other: Vienna, April 2000: Conference on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, in preparation for the UN GA Special Session (Beijing+5).

Commission on Population and Development

International Conference on Population 81 Development: Cairo+5, and NGO Forum, The Hague, February 1999. UN General Assembly Special Session, UN HQ, June/July 1999: for Review & Appraisal of Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action - Cairo+5. Ongoing cooperation with CPD through the Advocacy for Women's Health Group, convened by Commonwealth Medical Association, London, England.

Commission for Social Development (CSD)

Thirty-seventh session, February 1999. Preparatorv meetings for the UN GA Special Session to be held Geneva, June 2000.

UN GA Special Session, Bangkok, Oct 1999, for Outlining a Regional Perspective on Social Development. Co-signatory NGO Statement to thirty-eighth session, February 2000 regarding follow-up to World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), Copenhagen, March 1995.

UN GA Special Session - (Social Summit, Copenhagen + 5) Geneva, 26-30 June 2000. NGO Forum - co-organised workshop comprising Participation of Women in the Environment, Production, Nutrition; Women in Decision Making. Co-signatory NGO Statement to thirty-ninth session, February 2001: Review of Relevant UN Plans and Programmes Pertaining to the Situation of Social Groups.

Second UN Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002: Statement on rural women and ageing presented by this organisation. Our representative organised and moderated a panel discussion on Nutrition and Ageing.

UN International Year of the Family (IYF) Continuous follow-up through ACWW societies and the NGO Committee on the Family, New York & Vienna.

Commission on Human Rights

Co-signatory NGO Statements to fifty-fifth session, March/April 1999: 1. "The Human Rights of Women; 2. "The Girl Child". Co-signatory NGO Statement to fifty-sixth session, March/

April 2000, "Call for a Technical Review of the Proposed Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution & Child Pornography."

Member of and attendance at the Special Committee of International NGOs on Human Rights in Geneva.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Forty-third session, March 2000. Forty-fourth session, March 2001. Member Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.

Economic Commission for Asia & the Pacific (ESCAP):

Fifty-fifth session: Asia & the Pacific into the 21St Century: Information Technology, Globalization, Economic Security & Development, April 1999. ESCAP Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural & Urban Areas, 3rd session, December 2000. Fifty-sixth session: How to Sustain Economic Recovery on a Fair Basis. Fifty-seventh session: Threats to Human, Regional Security from HIV/AIDS & Urbanization of Poverty, April 2001.

Commission on Human Settlements

Eighteenth session and Second substantive PrepCom for Istanbul+5, Nairobi, February 2001.

CO-OPERATION WITH UN PROGRAMMES AND BODIES AND SPECIALISED AGENCIES

United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF) Consultative Status since 1953.

1999-2002: Annual sessions UNICEF Executive Board, New York. Member NGO Committee on UNICEF New York and Geneva. Member International Network for Girls, created to follow up progress since Beijing Conference. Geneva, NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Rights of the Child, NGO Working Groups on the Girl Child; Children in Armed Conflict & Displacement; Sexual Exploitation of Children. New York, UNICEF Working Group on Girls.

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Consultative Status 1949, Operational Relations 1997.

1999-2002 General Conferences. Biennial UNESCO International Conference of NGOs December 2001. Collective Consultation of NGOs & CSOs on Education for All, Lilongwe, Malawi, Sept/Oct 2002.

UN DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN (UNIFEM) - Consultative status since 1989

1999-2002:NGO Committee on UNIFEM and briefings

3.4 FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) - ACWW Consultative Status since 1947.

FAO Conference, Rome: 3lst session, 2001. FAO Council, Rome: 116th, ll9th, 120th, 121st sessions 1999-2002. FAO Committee on World Food Security, Rome: 25th, 26th, 27th sessions 1999-2001. FAO Committee on Agriculture. Rome: 15th Session, January 1999; 16th session, March 2001. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture([CGRFA) Rome: 8th Session, April 1999; 9th Session, October 2002; lst Meeting of the (CGRFA) acting as the Interim Committee for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food & Agriculture. FAO Division of Women & Population: Seminar: Women in Rural Development - participation/exchange of information and experiences between rural women from the European Union and the Central & Eastern European countries (CEEC), Innsbruck, Austria, February 2001. World Food Summit: Five Years Later, Rome, 10-13 June 2002. Member of Ad Hoc Group (AHG) of International NGO's Representatives to FAO residing in Rome. International Year of Mountains 2002: International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development in Mountain Regions, Adelboden, Switzerland, June 2002; member of drafting group for the Adelboden Declaration. International Conference Celebrating Mountain Women, Chambery, France, May 2002. Conference on Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions on the Political Agenda, Andermatt, Switzerland, October 2002.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATI ON (WHO)

Forty-seventh Regional Committee for Eastern Mediterranean, Cairo, October 2000

Fifth Global Conference on Health Promotion, Mexico City, June 2000, organised by WHO, Pan American Health Organization and the Mexican Ministry of Health, leading to participation in Health Promotion/Education Inter-country workshop, Pretoria, South Africa, November 2000, organised by WHO/AFRO. Member Ad Hoc NGO Group on Health Promotion, Geneva.

OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

Consultations and Co-operation with Officials of the UN Secretariat 1999-2002

Millennium Forum of the UN, UN HQ, May 2000: "We the Peoples ... Strengthening the UN for the 2lst Century" - ACWW funded grass-roots members from Africa & Eastern Europe to attend. Member Conference of NGOs (CONGO). Attendance at CONGO Board, General Assemblies and Special Meetings, Geneva and New York. Special UN Briefing, December 1999.

CONGO/DPI /Kyung Hee University - International Conference of NGOs, Seoul, October 1999: "The Role of NGOs in the 21st Century" - ACWW funded grass-roots members from Malaysia & Korea to attend.

ACWW 23rd Triennial Conference, Canada, June 2001. Discussion groups on gender issues & equality, HIV/AIDS, effects of globalisation - speaker from FAO; Volunteering; Challenges to the Rural Community.

ACWW International Workshop on Leadership & Skills Training, Colombia, November 2000, participants from 12 Caribbean, Central & South American countries; Canada, June 2001, participants from 12 developing countries.

ACWW Women's Development Programme, Mali: 2001 completion of 4-year capacity-building project.

ACWW Committee on Agriculture established 2001.

ACWW Area Conferences 1999-2002: held Canada, Czech Republic, China, Colombia, Fiji, Greece, India, Kenya, Mauritius, New Zealand, South Africa, USA, Zimbabwe; to promote and/or consolidate the empowerment and education of women & girls.

1999-2002: 89 ACWW-supported micro projects worldwide in leadership training, literacy, water use and conservation, nutrition & health, food & livestock, income generation, grants for labour-saving equipment and technology, HIV/AIDS awareness, credit schemes, FGM awareness.

Leadership and Skill Training Workshops. 1999-2002: ACWW workshop held Czech Republic for women in Central & Eastern Europe. ACWW and Agriterra, a Netherlands-based development agency, have collaborated to organise capacity-building development workshops in Colombia, Costa Rica, Kenya, the Philippines.

World Rural Women's Day, 15 October - proposed at the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference by ACWW, International Federation of Agricultural Producers and other concerned representatives. Supported by FAO. Formally initiated Rome 1996. Active participation and involvement of ACWW Member Societies worldwide.

Third World Congress of Rural Women, Madrid, Spain, 2002: addressing issues of Sustainable Development, Food Safety & Security, new Technologies, Empowerment & Decision-making, etc. ACWW Statement presented. Panel discussant at the World Civil Society Forum, Geneva, July 2002.

2. Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations

Special Consultative Status Granted 1947

The Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations (CBJO) is an NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. It has served in that capacity since the 1940s and represents more than 1,000,000 members in more than 50 countries through three constituent organizations – B'nai B'rith International, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. Its primary mission is to advance human rights.

During the years 1999-2002, the organization has been actively represented at all sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, at various UN constituent bodies in Vienna, at the Economic and Social Council for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile, and UNESCO in Paris.

Each year, the organization sends a high-level, international delegation to attend the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in Geneva. Members of this delegation regularly present written and oral statements to the CHR on human rights issues of concern. The delegation also consults with Member States regarding various resolutions of interest.

In 2002, the organization sponsored a Day at the United Nations, and invited other NGOs and its general membership to discuss issues of import to the United Nations with several permanent Representatives and UN officials.

In 2001, the organization was well represented at the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR), in Durban, South Africa, with two of its constituent organizations playing critical roles. One of the organization's constituent groups played a key organizational role in planning the NGO conference, as well as facilitating the participation of various NGOs during the conference. The organization also was intimately involved in the Preparatory Committee Meetings in Geneva and Santiago leading up to WCAR, through its representatives in both cities. During the conference, the organization's delegation actively participated in the deliberations, presenting oral statements in both the governmental and NGO fora.

One of the organization's constituent bodies also played a key role for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), helping the host country with organizing the NGO conference, and facilitating the participation of several NGOs during the conference. In addition, this constituent body chaired an interfaith group that prepared the South African interfaith groups for the WSSD.

The organization regularly publicizes issues of import and concern at the United Nations and distributes these analyses and reports to its leadership and membership around the world, with the aim of educating the membership about the United Nations and human rights issues.

3. Franciscans International

General Consultative Status Granted 1995

Part I. Franciscans International (FI) is a non-governmental organization at the UN that serves all Franciscans and the world community by bringing spiritual, ethical and Franciscan values to the various UN for a and agendas, especially focusing on peacemaking, concern for the poor and care of creation, and by educating its members concerning UN programs and agencies. It has done this by participating in the functional commissions held in New York and Geneva and in UN Conferences, by conducting workshops on UN issues, by writing handbooks on UN human rights instruments, and by distributing bi-monthly news briefs and a newsletter translated into nine languages.

Part II. In preparation for the 2002 High Level Segment of ECOSOC, FI convened a gender caucus to make recommendations to strengthen the Draft Ministerial Document. In an oral intervention at the 2002 ECOSOC, FI urged the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to give priority to countries that are focusing on the needs of their poorest citizens, and stressed the need for pro-poor development assistance and debt relief. At the High Level Breakfast Roundtable on the Role of Education in Poverty Eradication, FI stressed the importance of the education of girls and of changes in cultural attitudes toward women as crucial to improve the health and economy of a country. FI also met with the president of ECOSOC to discuss how NGOs could participate more actively in UN Commissions and Conferences and stay engaged in the follow up of FfD and of WSSD.

In conjunction with the Commission on Human Rights, FI holds human rights training seminars and parallel events. In 1999 FI gave interventions on the rights of the child, the right to development, indigenous issues and internally displaced persons; in 2000 FI intervened on the right to development, human rights of women, human rights defenders, and migrants and trafficked women and children in Europe; in 2001 on the rights of the child, indigenous issues and the right to development; and in 2002 on contemporary forms of slavery, the prevention of discrimination, terrorism, the death penalty, human trafficking and the rights of minorities. FI puts out a yearly report of the CHR, detailing Franciscan involvement, the context and the outcome of each session.

At the Sub-Commission on Human Rights, in 1999 and 2000 FI made statements on the human rights of indigenous peoples, on the protection of minorities, and on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; in 2000 on the rights of children and youth; in 2001 on racial discrimination in colonies and territories; and in 2002 on the rights of minorities, the prevention of discrimination and contemporary forms of slavery. Copies may be found at www.FranciscansInternational.org.

FI conducted a Training Workshop on UN and International Labor Organization Mechanisms on Trafficking, Bonded Labor and Forced Labor from June 5-7, 2002. It published the results in "Mobilizing the Franciscan Family to Combat Human Trafficking," which included reports on the 2002 UN Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the International Conference on 21st Century Slavery. http://www.franciscansinternational.org/resources/publications.php In 2002 FI also developed a Migration Resource Guide that offers practical information on how to advocate for the rights of migrants and refugees along with background information on relevant UN covenants and resolutions.

At the 1999 Commission for Social Development, FI submitted an intervention on strengthening global financial architecture to finance social services, and in 2000 a statement advocating for greater social justice. FI gave an oral intervention advocating a Currency Transaction Tax at the October 2001 PrepCom for the International Conference on Financing For Development, and chaired a panel at the January 2002 PrepCom for FfD in which the Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs and the Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs discussed how they could integrate disarmament with economic and social development to create a more holistic world view. FI also helped organize a panel on "Ethical and Moral Aspects of Financing for Development" at the German mission in March 2002. FI was requested by individual governments to suggest language on faith-based groups and the role of civil society during negotiations at a PrepCom for the World Conference Against Racism in spring of 2001 and to suggest language on World Assembly on Ageing implementation, research and follow-up at a PrepCom in 2001.

FI was registrar for the Millennium Forum (May 22-26 2000) and co-convener of the eradication of poverty theme paper. In recognition of this, FI was invited to attend the Millennium Summit in September 2000. FI participated the International Conference on Least Developed Countries (May 14-20 2001); the UN Conference on Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons (July 9-20 2001), making an oral intervention on the need to tie job training and education to weapons collection and destruction programs; the World Conference

Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and other Related Intolerances (Aug 31-Sept 7 2001), giving an oral intervention on examining the racism in Church institutions and urging reparations to correct relationships as well as hosting a parallel event on "the Franciscan Response to Racism"; the Conference of the Parties-Subsidiary Body for Scientific Advice on emissions affecting the climate (July 13-27 2001); and the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (Nov 12-14 2001).

In 2002 at the International Conference on Financing for Development (March 18-22), FI co-sponsored an intervention calling for a "coalition against poverty" and one suggesting specific language for the Monterrey Consensus. It also co-sponsored a panel on "Toward Improved Global Governance: a Discussion between Governments, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the European Commission and NGOs." At the World Assembly on Aging (April 8-12, 2002) FI organized parallel events on "Art and the Elderly" and on "Various Models of Adult Day Care." In an oral intervention at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (Aug 26-Sept 4, 2002), FI committed itself to study ways to ensure the corporate social responsibility of partners in the development process, to make suggestions to change unsustainable patterns of consumption, and to support governments in their plans of implementation. FI also organized a panel on "Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development."

Other Relevant Activities: In September 1999 Franciscans International held a seminar on "Implementation of the Right to Development: Challenges and Opportunities." In cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, FI hosted a series of discussions and held a second seminar on RTD on 31 August and 1 September 2000. In preparation for the Working Group on the Right to Development (25 February- 8 March 2002), FI released the publication, "Summaries Prepared by Franciscans International of the Four Reports of the Independent Expert on the Right to Development, Mr. Arjun Sengupta."

FI follows the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and supports the UNESCO sponsored Decade to Create a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World, gathering signatures for the UNESCO Manifesto 2000. FI hosted an international seminar on Peace Education from Various Faith Traditions, co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Granada in February 2001, and is a founding member of the UN Peace Day Vigil, which campaigns for world wide interfaith observances of the International Day for Peace and Cease Fire on September 21st.

4. Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

Special Consultative Status Granted in 1999

AIMS:

SPUC aims to promote the protection of innocent human life, in law, from fertilisation until natural death. Membership of this organisation is around 45,000, all of whom live in the UK. No government funding is given to SPUC; Funds come from voluntary donations from members and friends of the Society. SPUC is affiliated with the International Right to Life Federation.

PARTICIPATION IN ECOSOC CONFERENCES FOR THE PERIOD 1999-2002:

The Chief administrative officer of SPUC has attended the following meetings to lobby delegates to protect innocent human life at all its stages of development.

Date	Event	Location
1999		
• 6 to 12 Feb.	Hague Forum	The Netherlands
• 1 to 13 March	Commission on Status of Women (CSW)	New York, NY
• 12 to 15 march	Beijing +5 Preparatory meeting	New York, NY
• 3 to 5 May	Informal meeting on Cairo +5	New York, NY
• 21 June to 2 July	Cairo +5	New York, NY
Date	**Event**	**Location**
2000		
• 28 Feb. to 17 March	Commission on Status of Women (CSW)	New York
• 6 to 12 May	Beijing +5 intercessional	New York, NY
• 29 May to 6th June	Beijing +5 final meeting	New York, NY
Date	**Event**	**Location**
2001		
• 29 Jan. to 2 Feb.	PrepCom on the UN Special session on Children	New York
• 5 to 16 March	Commission on Status of Women	New York, NY
• 1 to 4 May	PrepCom on the UN Special session on Children	New York
• 7 to 11 May	NGO committee meeting	New York, NY
• 9 to 11 May	Resumed Committee on Status of Women	New York
• 11 to 15 June	UN Special session on Children - informal	New York
• 21 to 31 Aug.	UN Special session on Children - informal	New York
Date	**Event**	**Location**
2002		
• 28 Jan. to 8 Feb.	Rio +10 - preliminary meeting	New York, NY
• 4 to 15 March	Commission on Status of Women	New York, NY

- 25 March to 5 April Rio +10 - PrepCom New York, NY
- 1 to 5 April Commission on Population and Development New York, NY
- 29 April to 10 May UN Special session on Children Final meeting New York
- 27 May to 7 July Rio +10 - PrepCom Bali
- 25 Aug. to 6 Sept, Rio +10 final meeting Johannesburg
- 23 to 27 Sept. Sixth Committee Conference on Reproductive Cloning NY

5. Teresian Association

Special Consultative Status Granted: 1998

PURPOSE AND AIMS OF THE TERESIAN ASSOCIATION:

The Teresian Association is a Catholic organization whose members "seek to promote human advancement and transform social structures through education and culture". Furthermore, it affirms the dignity of each person and by its own preferential option for the poor; it promotes the human rights and is committed to building a society of justice and solidarity. The Association:

- Fosters coordinated activities, cooperating with other groups and organizations which work for human and cultural advancement.
- The Teresian Association carries out its activities in different areas of formal and non-formal education, through its own educational centers in collaboration with public and private entities.
- Supports individuals and groups who are especially dedicated to the study of scientific research.
- Through these activities, The Teresian Association affirms the importance of the family as a decisive factor in social and personal development and actively participates in the promotion of women through educational programs, publications and other means the awareness. We aim to support the advancement of women by raising public awareness, particularly among young people on women's' vital role women have in the family and society.

Education is of paramount importance for the Teresian Association. We recognize the transforming power of education as a mediator of change and its role in the process of building individuals as autonomous people and social agents. Through Education, the Teresian Association:

- Favors the formation of ethical, critical, participative and active individuals who will develop justice, solidarity and political responsibility, exercising responsible citizenship.
- Deepens awareness of the people's own cultural and religious identity, open to cultivate the experience of faith, and to intercultural and inter-religious dialogue.

- Takes on challenges from new forms of knowledge, new technologies and communications media that are birthing a new culture. It seeks to form citizens committed to a different kind of society, respectful of multiculturalism, international solidarity and the care for the environment.
- Encourage educators to recuperate the dignity of their role as agents of social transformation; to help develop a new way of living, based on Povedan educational anthropology.

The Teresian Association carries out its aims by means of, among others its own centers of formal education and of educational research programs of childhood, youth and adult education in areas socially and economically depressed in the countries in which the Association is present student and university residences and hostels foundations set up in various countries where it is present, for the support of social projects in third world countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia conferences and workshops on issues of justice, education, human rights, poverty, human advancement its own publications and its own publishing house national and international educational congresses a growing program of volunteerism to work in Third World countries, also involving the training and support of volunteers.

PARTICIPATION IN ECOSOC AND OTHER UN MEETINGS:

- A member of the Teresian Association attended the preparatory meetings for the Beijing Commission on Status of Women, particularly the "Conference on Women" 17th to the 21st of January 2000 held in Geneva, Switzerland. Several members, in turn, attended the Beijing Conference from their fields of work from Brazil, China, Japan, the Philippines and Spain
- Two Representatives attended the 23rd Special Session of the UN General Assembly in New York on, "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the 21st Century", 5th-7th June 2000
- Two Representatives attended the 2nd World Assembly on "Ageing" in Madrid, 8th-12th April 2002
- Two Representatives attended the 55th Annual DPI/NGO Conference in New York on: "Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict: A Shared Responsibility", on 9th-11th September 2002

6. Women's World Summit Foundation

Special Consultative Status granted 1995

The Women's World Summit Foundation was founded on 8 March 1991 in response to the first UN Children's Summit with the purpose of mobilizing women and women's organizations to hold world leaders accountable to their promises made to children and women. Since then, WWSF has developed a women's and children's section with three programs in each section.

As a Swiss Foundation, headquartered in Geneva, and as an international, non-profit, non-confessional, humanitarian NGO (with UN consultative status ECOSOC and UNFPA), WWSF is known for its annual empowerment programs for rural women, children and NGOs. Its aim: to help implement women's and children's rights and promised UN development goals. WWSF is a network of over 11,000 contacts (mostly women's and children's NGOs, Human Rights organizations and grassroots development groups) that receive and request our annual campaign materials to mark the two world days it created as well as nomination guidelines to nominate candidates for the annual Prize for women's creativity in rural life which it convenes since 1994. Our network is growing steadily and so does the budget. Three people work at the Geneva office and one person in Austria who leads the German section. WWSF received UNFPA and DPI consultative status in 1999.

WWSF participates regularly in UN conferences and meetings and has accredited members in New York, Vienna and Geneva. WWSF President and/or Executive Director attended CSW 43rd, 44th,45th and 46th sessions in New York; Prepcoms for Durban and Johannesburg, UNGASS on Children Summit (2002); WWSF President attended the Durban World Conference on Racism 2001; the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2002; WWSF Executive Director attended the 5-year Beijing Review conference and 5-year Copenhagen review conference 2000; WWSF helps elaborate and signs collective NGO statements on various issues related to women's and children's rights prepared by NGO members of the Geneva CSW.

WWSF is member of the UN/NGO Committee on the Status of Women and actively participates in 8 working groups (e.g. Human Rights, nutrition, peace, the girl child, ECE and employment, sexual exploitation of children, violence against children, refugee women, and as of 2003 the Congo/ NGO Spiritual committee. WWSF participates in elaborating statements at the UN Commission on Human Rights on related subjects to women's and children's rights. WWSF is member of CONGO (Conference of NGOs), CRIN (the Child Rights Information Network), ISPCAN (International Society fot the prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect), CIVICUS and the NGO committee on UNICEF.

WWSF cooperates with WFP,IFAD, UNESCO, FAO, UNFPA, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNHCR, UN NGLS, and the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Other relevant activities: i) To help implement the Beijing empowerment goals for women, WWSF looks for innovative and creative women and women's organizations who improve the quality of life in rural communities, and awards annually to 30 or more Laureates with its annual PRIZE FOR WOMEN'S CREATIVITY IN RURAL LIFE (US$500 per laureate) (convened since 1995), publishing their valuable contributions to development, household food security and peace. 247 prizes have so far been awarded. Another empowerment program is its WORLD RURAL WOMEN'S DAY campaign on 15 October (since 1997) to sensitize governments, the media and the public at large on rural women's rights and needs and what society owes them. This is a follow-up project to the Fourth International Conference on Women - Beijing 1995. WWSF publishes every year an 'OPEN LETTER TO RURAL WOMEN OF THE WORLD' focusing on a Human Rights issue.

To help implement the Rights of the Child and the 1996 Stockholm Congress on commercial sexual exploitation of children, WWSF launched the WORLD FUND FOR THE DIGNITY OF CHILDREN and sponsored with membership donations 14 organizations working to rehabilitate sexually abused children. The Fund has now been transformed into a PRIZE FOR PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE ACTIVITIES organized by NGO coalition members that mark the World Day of the same name. WWSF launched in 2000 the WORLD DAY FOR PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE - 19 November - in synergy with the Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (20 November) and coordinates an international NGO coalition of over 500 NGOs that work the World Day with pertinent activities and events every year. A full report of activities is available on WWSF web site www.woman.ch (children's section). WWSF is also giving workshops on how to build national NGO coalitions to mark the World Day and lobbies governments to do more for the implementation of Child Rights and for prevention of child abuse which includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse, child neglect and exploitation which constitutes a form of violence.

WWSF organizes an annual Round Table on Progress in prevention of child abuse and press conference to mark the World Day in Geneva, invites relevant organizations (including UNHCR) to present to the public prevention programs and progress. Last year's report reveals that prevention activities as they exist today are insufficient and new innovative approaches for more effective prevention are called for.

WWSF launched in 2001 the Walk your Talk initiatives which were officially launched at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children (May 2002) and which have as their aim to: 1) regularly remind Heads of State and government of their new promises made to the children of the world and; 2) to award at a later stage those Heads of State and government who accomplish the most significant results in implementing "A world fit for children" declaration and Plan of Action.

215 NGOs have so far endorsed the initiatives and expressed interest to participate with the postcard campaign. WWSF prepared a global postcard and poster for this 10-year campaign and is in the process of identifying national focal points as coordinators.

ii) WWSF has occasional consultations with various UN officials, e.g. Geneva FA0 Director who was keynote speaker on 15 October 2001, High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson who spoke at the Prize for rural women award ceremonies held at the UN in Geneva in 2000; and UNHCR Senior Program Officer for Refugee Children, Christiane Linner who presented prevention programs in refugee camps.

iii) In 2001, the UN Library in Geneva organized an exhibition of 8 Laureates who received our Prize for women's creativity in rural life and presented their work for 4 months. Geneva UN Director General, Mr. V. Petrovsky, opened the exposition.

iv) WWSF receives regular financial contributions from WFP, IFAD, UNHCR, the World Bank, and received a donation from UNIFEM and UNFPA in the past.